

MILDENHALL

Union Rural Sanitary Authority

Eighth Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Mildenhall Rural Sanitary District of the Mildenhall Union, during the Twelve Months ending December 31st, 1896.

Prepared in accordance with the Order of the Local Government Board, dated March, 1880.

FEBRUARY 25th, 1897.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Eighth Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the Mildenhall Rural Sanitary District for the year ending December 31st 1896.

The total number of deaths in the District was 146, the rate per 1000 being 17·05; the deaths from zymotic diseases numbered 14, the number per 1000 being 1·63, and from other causes there were 142 deaths, the rate per 1000 being 15·42. Fifty persons had attained the age of 70 years and upwards, one 96 years, one 91 years, and two 90 years, and there were no less than ten over 80 years. Twenty-six children died under the age of 2 years, four being certified as prematurely born. Twenty-one persons died of old age, ten deaths were recorded as being due to scarlet fever, three to erysipelas, and one to typhoid fever, the latter at Icklingham. Phthisis caused 7 deaths, bronchitis 7, and cancer eight. Six inquests were held during the year, including two cases of suicide. In the Parish of Wangford for the fourth successive year no death was recorded, and Kentford with a larger population was equally exempt.

In the District 133 male children and 126 female children were born, the total number being 259, equivalent to a birth rate of 30·4 per 1000; no less than 56 children were born in the month of March. Eighteen persons died in the Workhouse Infirmary, a larger number than usual, but twelve had lived more than 70 years, and one aged 8 years was the child of a tramp. In so large a District I venture to say the zymotic death rate is a very low one, for as will be seen later the number of cases notified exceeded the average for the past 5 years very considerably. In Mildenhall which includes also the hamlets of West Row, Beck Row, and Holywell Row, 92 cases of scarlet fever were notified, erysipelas seventeen, diphtheria three, and typhoid fever two.

In Lakenheath there were 128 cases certified as being due to scarlet fever, and two to erysipelas. It is interesting to note that no case of diphtheria was reported from Lakenheath, where formerly the disease was endemic. I cannot but think that the sanitary improvements, especially in the way of better drainage during the past few years have materially contributed to this satisfactory result.

Altogether the number of notifications that I received last year, amounted to no less than 294, of which 250 were due to scarlet fever, the great majority of the cases occurring at West Row and Lakenheath. The epidemic at the latter place was I believe primarily due to infection from a servant who had recently returned from London suffering from sore throat, having been previously in service at a place where the family had suffered from scarlet fever. The Mother of this girl nursed a woman in her confinement, and the latter subsequently died of puerperal scarlet fever, a son of the deceased aged 2 years also died of scarlet fever later on. The disease continued with varying intensity until September, since when no fresh cases have been reported. At West Row the epidemic had evidently existed in a mild form for some time before it became known to me, the first case I saw was in March and this was the first case notified. When I informed the Mother of the Child that it was a case of scarlet fever, she told me that several children had been suffering in a similar manner in the village, and subsequent enquiries I made confirmed her statement. It was impossible

to trace the commencement of the outbreak, and the cases were so mild that I think the parents were honestly mistaken as to the character of the disease. Later on, as is often the case the disease assumed a more severe form, and there were several bad cases, happily however none proving fatal. In concluding my remarks as to the epidemic disease of the district, I may perhaps be allowed to add that I suffered from a somewhat severe attack of scarlet fever in the spring, and at the same time to beg indulgence for a report that must suffer from not being a record of continuous work. It is however quite certain that the duties connected with my office were not neglected, as I venture to say that, with your kind permission, they were most effectively carried on by my friend Dr. Gill. Most of the necessary notices were sent by him, and he was ably seconded by the efforts of Mr. Godfrey, the Sanitary Inspector. To the Medical Officers of the District the thanks of the community are due, as they have invariably rendered to the Sanitary Officers all possible aid and assistance. During the past year the Sanitary Inspector has made 323 inspections, and has supplied disinfectants to 152 houses, besides fumigating with Kingzett's Sulphur Candles when the certificates were sent in.

Eleven dead wells have been repaired, ten live wells have been cleansed and deepened, eight nuisances removed, three formal notices sent, and twelve ash bins cleared out after verbal representation made.

During the past year no public works of importance have been undertaken, but the New Workhouse which was mentioned in my report last year, appears to be amply sufficient for the wants of the neighbourhood. The Committee of the Cottage Hospital, with the kind aid of friends, have added bath room and lavatory accommodation, which must necessarily enhance the usefulness of this Institution.

The slaughter houses and lodging houses have been duly inspected.

I have the honour to remain, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. W. ALDRIGH

M. O. H.

Sanitary Statistics of Mildenhall Rural District, for the Year 1896.

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Data not supplied by the Registrar for the past two years

352 cases notified in parishes concerned.

Public supply from shallow wells generally good.

Notices issued—Only three formal notices were required to obtain necessary improvements.



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Rural Sanitary District.

EIGHTH

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

1896,

BY

ARTHUR W. ALDRICH, L.R.C.P.